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to trust for a novel ; and his learned, judicious, and instructive Preface, should any one read it first, would, we confess, excite the expectation of wise and elaborate dulness in the work which it ushers into notice. But whoso forms this expectation will be happily disappointed. We have our doubts whether the author ever thought of the threefold "beautiful fundamental idea of the book," which Bunsen ascribes to it. It is a novel of society, rich in its lifelike representations of Prusso-German, Prusso-Jewish, and Polish character. The story embraces a remarkable number of strongly drawn *dramatis personæ*, and a great variety of exciting incident. The conversations are lively and natural ; the descriptions of scenery, skilful and vivid ; the narrative, well sustained and of unflagging interest ; the moral tone, uniformly true and high. We have seldom read a tale more worthy to be read, and if this furnishes a fair criterion of the author's powers, he must take rank among the first novelists of the century. We ought in justice to add, that the translation is in so pure an English style, that we should hardly know, except from the title-page, that it had a German original.

24. — *Parthenia : or, The Last Days of Paganism*. By ELIZA BUCKMINSTER LEE. Boston : Ticknor and Fields. 1858. 12mo. pp. 420.

WE will not undertake to give an analysis of this story ; for no mere outline could do it justice, — its merit lies less in the invention than in the execution. The principal characters are the historical personages of the age and court of the Emperor Julian, and authentic history of course limited the range which would else have been left free to the inventive faculty, so that the work is one of imagination more than of fancy. And it is pre-eminently the work of an imagination intensely vivid and sight-like. In no similar fiction has there been a clearer conception or a truer portraiture of the men and manners of a long-past era. We can detect no anachronisms ; and, while the diction is perspicuous, easy, and natural, it is entirely free from new-coined words, phrases, and idioms, so that there is no discrepancy between style and thought. In an historical point of view, "Parthenia" has a very high value. Its scene is laid in one of the few momentous crises in the fortunes of collective humanity ; and it seems to us that the spirit of the times and the actors may be much better learned from this fictitious narrative, than from any formal history.